

Abstract

A composite identity marking comprising first and second identity markings is provided on a substrate (1) of a security document. The first identity marking is provided by a first marking station (5, 5', 5", 5''') by bringing a first side of said substrate (1) into marking relationship with said first marking station (5, 5', 5", 5'''). The second identity marking is provided by a second marking station on a portion of the second side of said substrate (1) provided with a layer of material (60) capable of absorbing a substantial amount of radiation emitted by a laser beam. Said laser beam is produced by a laser marking station (6, 6') included in said second marking station and directed onto said layer of absorbing material (60) through the first side of the substrate and across said substrate to form said second identity marking only on said second side of the substrate (1).